

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TUNIS 01661 091510Z

44

ACTION LAB-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ABF-01 FS-01 TRSE-00 OES-03 ST-01 SIL-01

AID-05 IGA-02 AGR-05 EB-07 ISO-00 /041 W

----- 057290

R 091440Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1934

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 1661

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, OCON, EFIN, OTRA, OSCI, TS

SUBJ: USE OF U.S. EXCESS DINARS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

REF : STATE 52621, 75 TUNIS 7509

1. REGARDING QUERIES PARA 2 STATE REFTEL, EMBASSY WOULD PREFER NOT APPORACHING TUNIS AIR TO DETERMINE ITS WILLINGNESS ACCEPT U.S.-OWNED DINARS FOR TRAVEL SINCE PREFERABLE ALTERNATIVES ARE AVAILABLE. WE HAVE LEARNED THROUGH EXPERIENCE THAT TUNIS AIR, AS MONOPOLY GOVERNMENT AIRLINE IN TUNISIA, DOES NOT MAKE PARTICULAR EFFORT PROVIDE OPTIMUM SERVICE. FURTHERMORE, TUNIS AIR DOES NOT TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE MAINTAIN OFFICE IN WASHINGTON OR IN SEVERAL OTHER AREAS USEFUL FOR U.S. OFFICIAL TRAVELERS. WE RECOMMEND RELIANCE ON TRIAL BASIS ON ALITALIA WHICH HAS OFFICES IN WASHINGTON AND OTHER WORLD CAPITALS, SERVES PRESENT AUTHORIZED TRANSFER POINT ROME, AND IS WILLING ACCEPT TUNISIAN DINARS FOR OFFICIAL TRAVEL FOR ALL U.S. OFFICIAL NEEDS IN CONFORMITY WITH PL-480 SALES AGREEMENTS REGARDLESS OF WHERE TRAVEL ORIGINATES AND TERMINATES AS LONG AS TRAVELERS STOP IN TUNIS. ALITALIA ALSO AGREES TO MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF U.S. CARRIERS ON ALL ROUTES, INCLUDING THOSE SERVED BY ALITALIA. ALITALIA REP BELIEVES THAT ALITALIA WASHINGTON OFFICE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ISSUE TICKETS AGAINST GTR'S ISSUED IN WASHINGTON AND PAYABLE IN DINARS BUT WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF PROCEDURES AND POSSIBLY CONCURRENCE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TUNIS 01661 091510Z

ALITALIA WASHINGTON OFFICE AND ALITALIA HEADQUARTERS. ALITALIA

INDICATED IT FORESEES NO PARTICULAR RESTRICTIONS AS LONG AS
ONLY TRAVEL IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH SPIRIT AND LAW OF
GOT-USG BILATERAL AGREEMENTS IS INVOLVED.

2. AS BACKGROUND INFORMATION, ALITALIA REP INFORMED EMBASSY
THAT TUNISIAN ARE RAISING INCREASING DIFFICULTIES FOR CON-
VERSION OF DINARS BY FOREIGN CARRIERS FOR TRAVEL ON ROUTES
NOT SPECIFICALLY COVERED IN FORMAL CIVIL AVIATION AGREE-
MENTS OR OPERATING PERMITS. THIS NO PARTICULAR CONCERN TO
ALITALIA, HOWEVER, SINCE (UNLIKE TWA) ALITALIA HS HIGH TUNISIAN
EXPENSES FOR SERVICING ITS AIRLINE OPERATIONS HERE WHICH CAN
BE MET FROM U.S.-OWNED DINARS IN EVENT GOT LIMITS CONVERT-
IBILITY. ALITALIA WILLINGNESS ACCEPT DINAR PAYMENT BASED
IN PART ON FACT IT WILL OBTAIN SALES COMMISSION AND HOPES TO
EXPAND ITS TICKET SALES TO U.S. COMMUNITY FOR UNOFFICIAL TRAVEL
PAYABLE IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

3. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT SPECIFICALLY APPROACHED OTHER
AIRLINES, WE BELIEVE THAT SOME, PARTICULARLY THOSE HAVING
IMPORTANT EXPENDITURES IN TUNISIA SUCH AS AIR FRANCE,
WOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT DINAR PAYMENT FOR OFFICIAL
TRAVEL UNDER SAME CONDITIONS AS ALITALIA. INCIDENTALLY, TWA
LOCAL REP STILL BELIEVES HE COULD ACCEPT DINAR PAYMENTS IN
TUNIS FOR OFFICIAL U.S. TRAVEL ORIGINATING OUT OF TUNISIA AND
THEN INSTRUCT TWA OFFICE CONCERNED TO ISSUE APPROPRIATE
TICKETS, BUT HE MAY NOT YET BE INFORMED OF NEW TWA POLICY.

4. EMBASSY GRATIFIED RE PROGRESS IN FORMULATING FY 1976
SFCP PLANS BUT, AS REQUESTED TUNIS 7509, 5199 AND PREVIOUS,
WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF THESE PLANS AND OTHER
PROPOSED USE OF U.S.-OWNED DINARS BEFORE FINAL DECISIONS
MADE.
SEELYE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR TRANSPORTATION, POLICIES, FOREIGN EXCHANGE, DINAR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TUNIS01661
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760089-0361
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760378/aaaacqxj.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION LAB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 52621, 76 TUNIS 7509
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 MAY 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USE OF U.S. EXCESS DINARS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL
TAGS: ELAB, OCON, EFIN, OTRA, OSCI, TS, ALITALIA, TUNIS AIR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006